

Hampstead - May 7th 1822

My dearest Fanny

If you thought me bad before what much you consider me now. I am affraid past all forgiveness but when you hear that I only returned last night and then saw your letter for the first time, I hope you will own that I am not quite so bad.

The truth is that instead of staying a fortnight at Hampton I stayed nearly five weeks and then I was with Mr. Dilke a day or two before I went home. My Mother did not forward the letter because she did not know where I was and expected me every day, after the first three weeks. I had two reasons for not writing to you, one was that I never write to any one when I am from home and the other that having no idea of staying so long I intended whenever I did write to fix a day for calling on you, for I never thought of you your leaving town yet — how very

little I have seen of you this winter and yet I have only missed
one opportunity, which was just before I left home - now I think
of it perhaps we shall meet at the exhibition I am going there
with Mrs Dilke in about ten days, but if, when you go, you can
give me a tolerable long notice, I think I can meet you there.

Your pigeons, my dear girl, I accept with the greatest pleasure
they come at a very good time, when I have just lost my favorite
cat. you must give me directions how to keep ^{them} and whether I
am to get them a house. I hope they will stay with me - If
a boy can bring them I will send to Walthamstow, if you like
you must tell me if they are to be kept in-doors or out - We
have no out-house but a tool house - Will they, if
let out, join other pigeons and leave me? I ask these questions
because I should be sorry to lose them through my inexperience
I mean to read what ~~Buffon~~ Buffon says of pigeons, tonight.

I have read Buffon but he gives me no account how I am to

ed them; so I must rely entirely on you. The very first time Mrs
they comes to town I will certainly call on you - in ^a week's time
shall be staying with Mrs Dilke but I shall leave orders for
letters to be sent me directly; though I have no doubt I shall
see from you before I go - If I happen to be staying there at
the time you come to town I shall bring her with me, if I am
at home I shall come by myself - which I should prefer -

My dear I wish to goodness you were two or three
years older - I get quite disheartened when I think

it - I suppose you have seen by this time that
Byron was very little concerned in the affair you mentioned, and
that his being arrested is a mistake - I have been very com-
fortable and Hampton there is a palace there built by Cardinal
Wolsey, a great part of it filled with pictures, I went over it
several times and made a vow to myself - that as soon as you
were free from your present slavery I would take you down

to see it - Mr. Guterwy's brother is gone to join the independents
in South America rather odd that, to fight against his own
country - God bless you, dear Fanny
Yours most affectionately J.B.

8 May 1822

PAID

Miss Trevel

Richard Abbots' Bay

Valhalla's Cove

PAID

PAID
MAY 8
1822

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For

